

Tracker Talk



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Register Today for 7th National Conference on Immunization Coalitions

Registration is still open for the 7th National Conference on Immunization Coalitions, hosted by the Colorado Influenza and Pneumococcal Alert Coalition. The conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency Denver at the Colorado Convention Center from Wednesday August 9 through Friday August 11.

This year's conference theme, *On Higher Ground*, will address coalitions as agents of social change, the elements of a successful coalition, and social and ethnic diversity in public health initiatives. It will offer training on how to create, lead, and sustain effective coalitions for ALL health related issues. Conference participants will learn:

- Strategies for grassroots organizing.
- How coalitions serve as agents for social change.
- How to use data to drive coalition decision-making.
- Ways to work with culturally and linguistically diverse populations and reduce disparities in coverage.
- How to use media effectively to communicate key immunization messages.
- Proven coalition activities that increase community awareness and immunization rates.
- Methods of evaluation of coalition activities.
- How to advocate effectively for legislative change.
- How to build participant skills to identify and resolve conflicts among coalition partners.
- Where to find financial resources for coalitions.

You can register on-line for NCIC at:

<http://www.seeuthere.com/rsvp/invitation/invitation.asp?id=/m2c666-455170415278>

National Infant Immunization Week 2006

Working together
with
Vaccination Week
in the Americas



April 22-29, 2006

National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW) is an annual observance to promote the benefits of immunizations and to focus on the importance of immunizing infants against vaccine-preventable diseases by age two. NIIW provides an excellent opportunity for local and state health departments, national immunization partners, healthcare providers, and community leaders from across the country to highlight the positive impact of immunization on the lives of infants and children and to call attention to immunization achievements.

This year NIIW will again be held in conjunction with the Pan American Health Organization's Vaccination Week in the Americas (VWA), April 22-29, 2006. The U.S. will join with 35 countries in the Western Hemisphere to concurrently promote the need for routine vaccinations for infants and children during the last week in April.

Join in the celebration by creating your own NIIW event and help to ensure that all children in your community and throughout the Western Hemisphere have a healthy and safe childhood free from vaccine-preventable diseases.

Check out the National Immunization Program's website for advice on how to put together a NIIW kick-off event, with sample public relations materials and additional technical resources provided at: <http://www.cdc.gov/nip/events/niiw/default.htm>

Mark Your Calendars for 2006

- ☑ PIV Quarterly Meetings – April 7; July 14; October 6
- ☑ National Infant Immunization Week – April 22-29
- ☑ Hepatitis Awareness Month – May
- ☑ National Adolescent Immunization Awareness Week – June 4-10
- ☑ National Immunization Awareness Month – August
- ☑ 7th National Conference on Immunization Coalitions – August 9-11, Denver, CO
- ☑ National Adult Immunization Awareness Week – September 24-30



New Thimerosal Resources Available Online

If you are looking for authoritative information on the topic of thimerosal and vaccine safety, there are two websites providing good information that may be able to help you: The Vaccine Education Center (VEC) of Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and Every Child by Two (ECBT). Both resources are the work of two nationally-known immunization experts: Paul Offit, M.D., Chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, and Professor of Pediatrics, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine; and Maurice R. Hilleman, Professor of Vaccinology, at the University of Pennsylvania, School of Medicine.

VEC has recently posted a summary, intended for parents, of the evidence explaining that thimerosal is not a cause of autism. To access this site, go to: <http://www.chop.edu/consumer/jsp/division/generic.jsp?id=75751> ECBT has posted an audio file and podcast of a conference call Dr. Offit conducted with members of the media on March 15, 2006. The call begins with his review of the scientific evidence disproving that the thimerosal in vaccines is a cause of autism and concludes with his answers to questions from the press.

To access the audio file, go to: <http://72.32.4.217/ecbt/vaccinesafety.htm>. To access the podcast, open your PC software and copy the following URL to the podcast location: <http://www.ecbt.org/OffitBroadcast.rss>

PIV Director Adds Another Feather to Her Cap



Dr. Fran Butterfoss has just returned to the Center for Pediatric Research after a productive, nine month sabbatical. Last July, Fran was awarded this time away to finally write her coalition legacy, a 758-page book for Jossey Bass Publishers, entitled, "Building and Maintaining Coalitions & Partnerships for Health." This is a topic in which she has spent the past sixteen years becoming a nationally-recognized expert. Now that the book is complete, Fran and her husband Tom are enjoying quality time together in the absence of looming publisher deadlines and sleepless nights.

When the book is released, her colleagues at the Center for Pediatric Research and within PIV have promised to give her a well-deserved, glowing review on Amazon.com! You look for Fran's latest triumph on the shelves in early 2007.

CDC Releases Updated Vaccine Information Statement for Hepatitis A

On March 21, 2006, the CDC posted an updated Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) for hepatitis A. This new VIS takes into account the licensing of hepatitis A vaccines for children twelve months of age and as well as the ACIP recommendation for routine hepatitis A vaccination of all children age one year. The previous hepatitis A VIS, dated 1/09/06, was used as an interim version.

To obtain a ready-to-copy (PDF) version of the new hepatitis A VIS, go to: <http://www.immunize.org/vis/v-hepa.pdf>. Please note that the new VIS (dated 3/21/06) is currently available only in English. The Immunization Action Coalition (IAC) publishes VIS's in up to thirty-three different languages. For information about the use of VISs and for VIS's in other languages, visit the IAC's VIS web section at <http://www.immunize.org/vis>.

FOR RENT (at no charge) Project Immunize Virginia's Mascot Tracker



Livens up any immunization event!
Children love him!
Fresh from the Groomers (dry cleaners)!

To reserve Tracker for your next event,
contact Sarah Nasca at 757-668-6488 or by
email at NascaSR@evms.edu



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